[Translation]

Pilferage of Coal from Coal Depots

3138. PROF. RITA VERMA :
SHRI AMARPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantity of coal is being pilfered from railway sidings and coal depots in the B.C.C.L;

(b) if so, the cases of pilferage lodged in the police stations during each of the last three years;

(c) the extent of loss suffered by the B.C.C.L. due to pilferage of coal during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the pilferage of coal takes place with the connivance of the officers of the B.C.C.L. and jawans of the C.I.S.F.;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government against such officers and jawans during the last three years; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to stops such pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) There have been instances of pilferage of coal from railway sidings and coal depots in BCCL.

(b) the particulars regarding the number of cases of pilferage lodged with the police are given below :-

Year	No. of Cases of Pilferage Lodged with the Police
1993-94	94
1994-95	49
1995-96	107

(c) The actual quantity of coal pilfered and so the extent of loss suffered by BCCL on this account cannot be assessed as pilferage is clandestine. However, based on the number of cases apprehended. The value of coal recovered during each of the last three years is given below :-

Year	Value of Coal Recovered (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	34.98
1994-95	6.52
1995-96	11.66

(d) There is nothing on record to indicate the connivance of Central Industrial Security Force jawans and BCCL officers in these cases of pilferage of coal.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Steps taken to check theft/pilferage of coal are as under :-

1. construction/erection of fencing well around the Coal stocks;
2. Installation of check posts on the main roads leading to collieries;
3. Installation of watch towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking area;
4. Collection of intelligence.
5. Surprise checks alongwith local police and colliery security personnel.
6. Round the clock patrolling by colliery security personnel;
7. Meeting with district authorities for drawing out plan to eliminate the menace;
8. Lodging of FIRs with local police.

[English]

Irregularities in Vysya Bank Ltd.

3139. SHRI I.D. SWAMY :
SHRI RAM SAGAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question 405 dated July 12,1996 regarding irregularities in Vysya Bank Ltd., New Delhi, and state :

(a) whether Supreme Court in one of its latest decisions has held that any deviation of the laid down rules and noms shall attract punitive action in banking sector; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the officers who issued cheque books on Xeroxed/fake copies of requisition slips etc., and who passed/cleared the cheques without verifying the signature/forged signatures?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Supreme Court of India in a recent judgement held that it would be improper for any Official to exercise powers in excess of those delegated to him.

(b) The cases in the Connaught Place, Karol Bagh and Chandni Chowk branches of Vysya Bank Ltd., are cases involving an element of fraud or negligence and are not cases of exercise of powers in excess of delegated authority. Three Officers involved in the Connaught Place branch transactions have been awarded the punishment of withholding one increment each with cumulative effect for passing cheques negligently. Officials involved in the Karol Bagh transactions have been served show cause notices for passing 17 - cheques negligently and for contravention of procedures and also for issuing cheque book